

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

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Methods for expressing a heteromeric taste receptor that response to umami taste stimuli is provided. These methods comprise the co-expression of T1R1 and T1R3 nucleic acid sequences in a host cell that desirably also expresses a G protein that couples therewith, e.g., G<sub>q</sub>15 and G<sub>q</sub>16 or gustducin. In preferred embodiments, the host cells will be mammalian cells or *Xenopus* oocytes. These nucleic acid sequences are expressed constitutively or under inducible conditions. In other preferred embodiments, the methods will yield mammalian cells that stably express a T1R1/T1R3 umami taste receptor under inducible conditions, e.g., HEK-293 cells that express G<sub>q</sub>15.